

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 062481

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 062481 ACTION JERUSALEM INFO
VIENTIANE 20 MAR

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 062481

EXDIS TOSEC 790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA, SOV, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: DEAN/SHARMAN CASE
(S/S NO.7505476)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB, THRU SONNENFELDT

1. MR. HOWARD DEAN OF NEW YORK CITY, WHOSE SON CHARLES,
TOGETHER WITH AN AUSTRALIAN CAMPANION NEIL SHARMAN, HAS
BEEN DETAINED IN LAOS FOR OVER SIX MONTHS BY THE PATHET
LAO, HAS ASKED OUR CONCURRENCE FOR HIS PROPOSAL THAT HE ASK
SECRETARIES DENT AND SIMON, WHO ARE OLD PERSONAL FRIENDS,

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TO RAISE HIS SON'S CASE WITH SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIALS DURING

THEIR APRIL TRIP TO MOSCOW. SIMON HAS MADE SEVERAL OFFERS TO HELP ON BASIS HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH DEAN FAMILY, BUT HAS SO FAR TAKEN NO ACTION.

2. DEAN HAS NOT YET DISCUSSED THIS SPECIFIC PROPOSAL WITH DENT OR SIMON, WAITING ON OUR REACTION. DEAN FEELS STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH AN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS COULD ADVANCE THE CASE. HE IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE AND HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE WITH THE DEPARTMENT, BUT HE, REGARDLESS OF OUR ADVICE, RESERVES THE RIGHT TO APPROACH DENT AND SIMON ON HIS OWN.

3. WHILE RECOGNIZING SOVIET'S LIMITED INFLUENCE ON PATHET LAO, PROPOSED APPROACH MIGHT HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THE CASE WHICH STILL REMAINS STALLED DESPITE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. IN ANY CASE, DEAN UNLIKELY TO LEAVE ANY REASONABLE SOUNDING POSSIBILITY UNTESTED. EA AND EUR COULD BRIEF DENT AND SIMON AND SUGGEST WHO AMONG THE SOVIETS THEY WILL BE SEEING WOULD BE BEST TO APPROACH. THEY COULD CAST APPROACH AS A PERSONAL AND HUMANITARIAN EFFORT ON BEHALF OF AN OLD FRIEND WHICH COULD LESSEN THE RISK OF THE CASE BECOMING A POLITICAL ISSUE WITH THE SOVIETS.

4. ALTERNATELY, YOU MAY PREFER TO RAISE THE CASE WITH THE SOVIETS AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY. IF YOU CHOOSE TO DO SO, WE WILL SEND FULL DETAILS SEPARATELY. IN THIS CASE, WE SHOULD ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM DEAN.

OPTIONS:

A. THAT YOU APPROVE DISCUSSION OF THE CASE WITH SOVIETS BY DENT AND SIMON AND AUTHORISE US TO BRIEF THEM AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

B. THAT YOU RAISE THE CASE WITH THE SOVIETS AND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL DEAN THAT YOU PLAN TO DO THIS.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

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C. THAT WE TELL DEAN THAT WE DO NOT THINK SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD HELP AND RECOMMEND THAT HE NOT PURSUE IT.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

5. CLEARED BY: EUR, D/PW.

INGERSOLL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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